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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

In keeping with General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965 and in response to Governing Council decision 79/22 of 28 June 1979 and General Assembly resolution 37/232 of 20 December 1982, the Secretary-General reports annually on the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations.

As of 1 March 1992, the Department of Economic and Social Development was established, replacing the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, as part of the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General for the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat. DESD is now to be superseded in the area of technical cooperation activities by the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS), consistent with the approval by the General Assembly of further measures for restructuring the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. The present report reviews the technical cooperation activities undertaken during this period of reorganization of structures and realignment of functions, designed to make the United Nations more effective in the conduct of its operations.

The report provides a look to the future with the establishment of the new Department, and addresses policy and thematic concerns in the work of DESD in 1992. Reference is made to Governing Council decisions 92/34 of 26 May 1992 and 93/7 of 18 February 1993 on United Nations technical cooperation activities and to other intergovernmental requests and mandates that have provided guidance in the past year.

A description of activities by substantive sector and by type of programme support is contained in addendum 1. Information on the work of other United Nations entities under the authority of the Secretary-General is contained in addendum 2. Statistical information is contained in addendum 3.

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FOREWORD

1. The United Nations is facing new demands and challenges. It is reshaping its structures in the economic and social sectors while continuing and evolving its technical cooperation capabilities in support of developing countries. The present report reflects this flux by: (a) providing information and perspective on recent and ongoing changes and (b) reviewing several main thematic and cross-sectoral emphases in United Nations technical cooperation activities in 1992.

2. Two decisions of the Governing Council on United Nations technical cooperation activities have been influential in the past year. In its decision 92/34 of 26 May 1992, the Council emphasized the importance of closer cooperation between DESD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and provided guidance on efforts for national capacity-building and DESD thematic work and new initiatives. In its decision 93/7 of February 1993, the Council sought to ensure that attention would be paid to several of its concerns by the General Assembly when considering the Secretary-General's proposals on restructuring, notably those pertaining to the relocation of the Office for Project Services (OPS) as a semi-autonomous entity in the new Department of Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS).

3. Information on recent work in two important areas has not been covered in this document, but will be presented separately to the Governing Council. The first area concerns a report submitted to the Secretary-General on the results of the task force set up to facilitate the OPS merger. The second concerns the initial report on implementation by the Department of relevant portions of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 on the operational activities of the United Nations system.

4. On other matters, the Department has participated in the start of the new UNDP support costs arrangements, including technical support services at the programme level (TSS-1) and at the project level (TSS-2), as well as administrative and operational services (AOS). A number of TSS-1 exercises are in progress. The Department is giving close attention to its changing role as an agent for technical cooperation, particularly in the context of the national execution of projects. It has intensified its efforts toward institution-building and human resource development, directing particular attention to the strengthening of developing country institutions. As discussed in part two of the present report, and given in more detail in addendum thereof emphasis is placed on assistance in designing, implementing and evaluating programmes that are economically efficient, socially appropriate and environmentally sound.

Part one

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

5. The efforts under way for restructuring and revitalizing the work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors are extremely important. As the Secretary-General has made clear, peacemaking, peace-keeping, and peace-building are intertwined elements in the work of the Organization. A central concern is to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes, including the assurance of adequate support for the Secretary-General's managerial and coordination responsibilities in the development sphere.

6. The first phase of United Nations restructuring was inaugurated shortly after the Secretary-General took office. The General Assembly took note of his initiative in its resolution 46/232 of 2 March 1992. In pursuance of this, the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) was established, including responsibility for technical cooperation programmes and projects financed by UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and other funding agencies. DESD combined six pre-existing Secretariat entities, including the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD), the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services.

7. In light of the work of a high-level panel of advisers, and taking into account discussions in the General Assembly and elsewhere, the Secretary-General has now taken further steps which constitute the second phase of the reform effort. An outline of the new arrangements was given in a note (A/47/753) submitted to the General Assembly on 3 December 1992. Details were developed in the revised budget estimates for the 1992-1993 biennium (A/C.5/47/88), which were approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993.

8. As part of this phase, a new Department of Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) is to be established, with structure and functions designed to sharpen the focus and enhance the impact of United Nations technical cooperation to meet the priority requirements of developing countries and countries in transition.

9. The new Department has a twofold focus. It will:

(a) Act as an executing agency, as required, for programmes/projects relating to institutional development and human resources development in such selected areas as development planning, policies and infrastructure; public administration; private sector development and enterprise management; financial management and accounting; and natural resources and energy planning and management;

(b) Be the focal point at United Nations Headquarters for the provision of management services and implementation functions for technical cooperation. In

this regard, the Secretary-General has envisaged that OPS, currently located in UNDP should be incorporated into the Department as a semi-autonomous entity.

10. The Department will contribute to the provision of substantive support to intergovernmental bodies addressing issues in the above areas. It will also act as the focal point for reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council on United Nations technical cooperation activities.

11. In establishing these new arrangements, the Secretary-General has expressed his commitment to preserving and enhancing the demonstrated abilities of OPS. Several conditions have been identified which are to be met to maintain the capabilities of OPS and to bring even greater efficiency to the new structure. The strengths of the entities concerned are to be combined to create a new and stronger organization.

12. As further indicated in document A/C.5/47/88, the Secretary-General has established a task force, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for DDSMS and with participation from the Department of Administration and Management, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of Legal Affairs, and UNDP, including OPS. The purpose of the task force is to review procedures to be put in place for the functioning of OPS in its new location, bearing in mind the conditions cited for the continued effective functioning of OPS.

13. In adopting resolution 47/212 B, on the revised budget estimates and related programmatic justifications, the General Assembly noted that "the modalities of the proposed integration" of OPS into DDSMS would first be considered by the Governing Council and subsequently by the General Assembly, in the light of a report of the Secretary-General on the work of the task force. The Governing Council will be apprised of the report of the task force to the Secretary-General, as well as its implications. A more detailed report, including relevant financial aspects, is to be prepared for submission to the General Assembly, in the context of the United Nations proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

14. Without going into detail on the work of the OPS task force, it may be said that good progress has been made, with agreements in the areas of: (a) finance; (b) personnel; (c) procurement; and (d) relationships. The main findings of the task force demonstrate that the merger is workable and should be beneficial to all concerned. Synergy and increased effectiveness are sought in the creation of the new entity, which will allow for the delegation of authority and flexibility of procedures. The task force wishes to ensure that OPS, and indeed the Secretariat, will be as flexible, efficient and dynamic as possible in the conduct of United Nations technical cooperation activities.

15. The issue of the governance mechanism that will apply to the new entity has received special attention. It is desired that the Governing Council have a strong role in the programmatic and budgetary review of OPS and the new Department. The task force has looked to the recent General Assembly legislation on the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as a model for this relationship. Governing Council supervision and guidance will be essential to the work of the new entity. Similarly, it will be important to draw on the linkages with UNDP at headquarters and in the field.

16. The relationship with UNDP is a prime element in the new arrangements. Indeed, as stated in document A/C.5/47/88, the sharpening of focus in the work of various operational entities of the United Nations, and the creation of a more unified and collaborative system, are key objectives of the restructuring process. In this context, an integral component of the restructuring is a reassertion of the role of UNDP as the central funding and coordinating body in the operational activities of the United Nations system.

Part two

THEMATIC AND CROSS-SECTORAL WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

17. From early 1992 until the establishment of DDSMS, United Nations technical cooperation activities have been carried out through the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD). As described in addendum 1 to the present document, these activities may be divided into several substantive sectors, including development issues and policies, natural resources and energy, public administration and finance, statistics, population, transnational corporations and science and technology. The Department's support for development has been obtained through projects, advisory services, group training and publications.

18. In building for the future, however, special prominence must be given to the thematic and cross-sectoral aspects of the work of the Department. This section of the report thus focuses on several topics that constitute new initiatives, as well as the ongoing significant efforts of the Department in relation to Africa and least developed countries, environment, evaluation, women in development, and technical cooperation among developing countries. The catalytic role of the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation receives special mention.

I. NEW INITIATIVES

19. Peace-building. In keeping with the priorities established in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace", the Department has expanded its concerns. In 1992 the Department, in cooperation with the Government of the Russian Federation and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), organized a conference on conversion of the aerospace complex and related technology assessment for development, which was held in Moscow. Moreover, the availability within the Department of expertise in applied geology has made it possible to provide assistance in land-mine clearance within the context of the United Nations interdepartmental committee which deals with mine-and-munition clearance.

20. Improvement of governance. Re-design and improvement of government structures and processes are now global trends. In 1992 the Department provided advisory services and project support to many central institutions of Governments to assist their administrative reform efforts. Ministerial-level

forums on government were also organized in such countries as Jamaica and Egypt, and various training seminars on civil service reform were held in Africa and Asia. Key missions in public-sector management reform were undertaken to India and Bangladesh with TSS-1 resources. Regional seminars and training workshops on decentralization and administrative adjustment were held in the Republic of Korea, Tunisia, and the Central African Republic. Special action research and advisory missions were undertaken in several eastern and central European countries, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and the former Czechoslovakia, to assist in restructuring their systems of government.

21. Electoral administration. The Department worked with the newly-created Electoral Assistance Unit in the Department of Political Affairs, in providing technical advisory services to a number of Governments for the organization of elections. A large-scale effort to assist in the national election held in Angola in September 1992 focused on the coordination of foreign assistance and on logistical support. Other electoral missions were conducted in Albania, Mali, Ethiopia, and Mozambique. Preparatory advisory missions were also fielded to provide assistance in connection with future elections foreseen in El Salvador, Lesotho, Rwanda and Uganda.

22. Privatization. The concept of privatization has gathered support in almost every country, irrespective of its political or economic system, the size of its public sector or the level of economic development achieved. Privatization of public enterprises has been widely promoted as an efficient means of strengthening market-oriented reforms. At the same time, problems and constraints have surfaced in the execution of policies. The Department is supporting national efforts to implement privatization and related policies in the context of economic reforms. Special recognition is given to the important role that foreign investment can play in the privatization process. The Department focuses on the formulation of general policy conducive to private-sector development, the enhanced development of entrepreneurship and business and increased access of enterprises to finance through the development of their countries' financial sector.

23. Investing in Central American development. A project to strengthen the investment process in seven Central American countries is part of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, which is financed through UNDP and aims at increasing the financial resources available for economic and social development and pacification. The goal of the project, which is based at San Salvador, is to strengthen the national institutions responsible for programming, executing and following up on public investment programmes. The Department assists in defining, establishing and improving the institutional, technical and legal framework of investment programmes. In addition to performing activities at national level, the project assists in identifying regional projects. International financial institutions have already expressed interest in the investment programmes being developed, and donors will be invited to discuss funding and institutional support.

24. Economies in transition. Countries in transition from centrally planned to market economies are experiencing rapid, complex and far-reaching changes. In May 1992, recognizing the impact of such economies on world development, growth and stability, the Department set up a Transitional Economies and Free Zones Section. Assistance programmes in this field of action may focus on the

analysis, design and implementation of national transformation and privatization strategies; on the training of entrepreneurs, financiers and corporate managers and on specific investment promotion activities. Technical assistance can also be provided in the drafting of investment legislation, tax and other fiscal regulations affecting transnational corporations and natural-resource and environmental legislation; in the negotiation of joint-venture equity and management contracts and technology-transfer contracts; in the review and restructuring of ongoing contractual arrangements and in the development of enterprises.

25. New independent States. The Department is coordinating the United Nations response to the countries of the former Soviet Union within the international assistance effort. An inter-agency task force on the new independent States has organized the participation of the United Nations system in the three international ministerial-level coordinating conferences scheduled to be held in Washington D.C., Lisbon and Tokyo, respectively. The task-force mechanism acts as a clearing-house for information. A compendium has been issued on the current involvement of the United Nations system in the new independent States, in which relevant technical assistance and advisory capacities are described. A newsletter on the new independent States is issued regularly.

II. AFRICA AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

26. Over 40 per cent of the expenditures for the Department's technical cooperation activities are in support of development in African countries, in all sectors. Details are provided in annexes 1 and 3 of this report.

27. In resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly requested bodies of the United Nations system to take appropriate measures in order to implement the commitments contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Agenda, as updated in a system-wide plan of action adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1992, aims at broad goals and provides for specific activities which are central to the work programme established in 1992 for the DESD Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least-developed Countries.

28. The Secretary-General established a high-level panel to advise and assist him in fulfilling his responsibility for addressing tasks relating to African development, including the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the New Agenda. This panel, chaired by the Secretary-General himself, held its first meeting in December 1992. The Department has provided servicing to ensure that the United Nations as a whole is kept informed and involved in the implementation of the Agenda.

29. Affirming the need for the international community to provide strong assistance for African development efforts, the Government of Japan in collaboration with the United Nations and the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) are planning to convene an international conference on African development in Tokyo in October 1993. It is hoped that the conference will bring together a number of heads of State in addition to some 300 high-level participants. As co-organizer of the conference, the Department is providing technical backstopping for the preparations.

30. Many similarities exist between the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least-developed Countries for the 1990s and the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Department's responsibility for least-developed countries extends to working in close cooperation with UNCTAD to ensure full mobilization and coordination of United Nations bodies for purposes of the implementation of and follow-up on the Programme of Action. In this regard, an inter-agency consultation meeting was held at Geneva in June 1992. In October 1992, the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions agreed on guidelines on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least-developed Countries and submitted them to headquarters and field offices.

31. Through direct involvement in operational activities at the country-level in 1992, the Department assisted least-developed countries in numerous areas, including development planning and analysis, strengthening of the coordination machinery of their Governments, provision of advisory services for the preparation and implementation of projects, development of indigenous science and technology capacity, performance of population analysis, development of statistics and implementation of structural adjustment programmes. A major portion of the Department's technical cooperation activities are carried out in least-developed countries.

III. ENVIRONMENT

32. In addition to participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and in the preparations related to it, the Department was active in several notable initiatives during 1992.

33. Services were expanded to include environmental statistics and "green accounting", environmental policy and management guidelines, the use of remote sensing for environmental monitoring and environmental technology assessment systems. Management guidelines for the mining, energy, public administration and national planning sectors were prepared. Environmental impact assessments and assistance in the promotion of energy conservation and efficiency were stressed.

34. In 1992 an effort was embarked on to assist Governments in formulating environmental action plans and national equivalents of Agenda 21. This involved integrating environmental strategies with development plans and national capacity-building initiatives, with particular attention given to the conservation of natural habitats, land degradation, desertification and urban and industrial pollution. This effort interconnects with the UNDP initiative known as "Capacity 21".

35. Working in conjunction with UNDP, the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and several other bilateral agencies, the Department has been active in promoting strategies for increasing the efficiency of the power sector. The Stockholm Initiative on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development played a key role in promoting the subject of energy conservation and efficiency in the UNCED process. It was also responsible for the establishment of the Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development for the purpose of preparing a technical report on new and renewable sources of energy.

36. The Department was a cooperating partner in several important gatherings in 1992, starting with the International Conference on Water and the Environment held in Dublin in January, the results of which provided an important input to UNCED and to the elaboration of the chapter on the protection and supply of freshwater resources in Agenda 21.

37. An international round table on environmentally sound coal technologies was organized in Berlin in conjunction with the Development Policy Forum of the German Foundation for International Development. This event focused on the technology needs and policy options of the clean utilization of coal.

38. An international conference on military conversion was held in Moscow to examine possible applications of aerospace technology in the field of environment and development.

39. In the wake of UNCED, the Department organized an interregional workshop in Beijing on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development, in which a number of NGOs participated. The meeting made it possible to prepare a series of prototype sustainable-development programmes and projects. These initiatives are now being followed up.

40. The Department has submitted several project outlines for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Projects approved in 1992 included one in China on coal-bed methane, one in Peru on assistance in energy conservation and one in Zimbabwe on photovoltaics for household and community use. A UNDP-funded project for monitoring oil pollution in Bulgarian territorial waters in the Black Sea was also approved in 1992.

41. Research conducted by the Department in the area of technical cooperation included quantitative analyses of environmental scenarios based on different policies and technological choices. Environmental aspects of energy, water, transport, population and consumer protection were investigated. The Department published a handbook on integrated economic and environmental accounting and promoted its use in workshops and services. It continued its methodological work on environmental statistics. In cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it organized two expert group meetings on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994.

42. The Department completed a study on transnational corporations and climate change and disseminated criteria for sustainable management development. A report was prepared on industrial environmental protection and on requirements for the disclosure of information on environmental hazards. A status report was produced on the work being carried out by the United Nations system on hazardous technologies and safer alternatives. A survey of the environmental management priorities of 200 of the world's largest transnational corporations was completed.

43. Shortly after the Conference on Environment and Development, the Department initiated an internal strategy and action plan, drawing upon relevant aspects of Agenda 21 and identifying the following priorities for its work: (a) support for the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies and action plans; (b) the integration of environment and development in decision-

making related to development planning, sectoral programmes and the private sector; (c) the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and of the use of new and renewable sources of energy; (d) the provision of help in the management of fragile ecosystems and in combating desertification and drought; (e) the protection of freshwater resources; (f) the management of hazardous wastes, particularly those produced by the mining industry; (g) the facilitation of global action by women towards sustainable development; (h) the further development of "green accounting" methodologies and other systems using environment-related statistics; (i) monitoring the environment through remote-sensing and satellite technology; (j) other tasks relating to the transfer of capacity-building in the use of environmentally sound technologies.

IV. EVALUATION

44. In 1992, in-depth evaluations were undertaken in respect of 29 projects. This compares with an average of 45 evaluations for each of the preceding two years. About 5 per cent of the projects executed by the Department are the subject of in-depth evaluations, most of which had budgets of $750,000 or more.

45. The Department's review of in-depth evaluations for 1992 has again revealed a number of long-standing problems, which, it seems fair to say, are also being encountered by other United Nations agencies. As a result of the cumulative lessons learned from such evaluations, there is now a sufficient body of knowledge to identify major factors which affect project performance and impact and areas in which remedial action should be taken. It is apparent that new approaches are needed to deal with some of these chronic problems and to make technical assistance more effective.

46. The remarks made in the paragraphs below focus on problems identified in project evaluations, project design and the criteria for their approval and training and capacity-building. Criteria for successful project implementation and the significance of the programme approach are highlighted. Comments are also offered on some notable projects.

47. As far as the evaluation exercises themselves were concerned, the average duration of two weeks for missions financed by the funding source was, in most instances, too short to permit intensive examination of such factors as the design of the project concerned, the institutions to which its execution was assigned, the methodologies used to implement it, the quality of the outputs obtained, its contribution to human-resources development and its programme linkages or to allow a discussion of alternative strategies and detailed recommendations. Moreover, an additional limitation was placed on the time which could actually be devoted to meaningful analysis and review since evaluators often needed to visit project sites and were required to write and present their draft report prior to departure.

48. Difficulties in evaluating project performance have also been due to weaknesses in project documents. The absence or inadequacy of verifiable baseline data for use in measuring progress make it difficult to record impact with any precision.

49. Results of evaluations pointed to shortcomings in project design as a major reason for the difficulties encountered in achieving the objectives of approved projects. Moreover, sometimes the objectives themselves were found to be unrealistic or overly ambitious.

50. Some weaknesses in project selection and design can be attributed to the limited resources devoted to preparatory work. It is difficult within a time span of a few weeks to perform all the background work required to produce a credible and well elaborated project document which provides a comprehensive picture of the socio-economic, political and physical environment in which the project concerned is expected to operate; assesses the resources the Government and other beneficiaries would be willing to commit; evaluates available managerial staff and institutional capabilities and is of assistance in obtaining inputs from all the parties which might interface with the project.

51. The implementation and sustainability of many projects are still impeded by the scarcity and too-rapid turnover of national staff and, in some cases, of national project directors. These constraints should be addressed when projects are identified and formulated and should have a bearing on the types of assistance sought and on the kind and scale of project operations chosen.

52. A review of evaluation reports suggests that high priority should be accorded to a re-examination of the approach taken to training in technical assistance programmes. Nowhere has the lack of detail and analysis been more striking than in the area of human resource development. Although capacity-building is supposedly one of the main objectives of technical assistance, project documents are characterized by a lack of detail regarding training, which is also dealt with perfunctorily in evaluation reports. Programmes should be based on a thorough knowledge of the skill levels of local staff, available options for training modalities and the suitability of various national and external training institutions.

53. On the positive side, evaluations show that projects are apt to have a powerful impact when enhanced by strong government commitment, solid management and staff support, good coordination and a realistic assessment of local capacity. It also appears that projects which have a narrow focus in that they deal with specific issues achieve their objectives more readily.

54. The evaluation reports also clearly show that a large number of projects are characterized by having many facets and significant linkages to groups and entities beyond their immediate environs. This lends further support to the adoption of a programme approach and suggests the need for multi-disciplinary teams for formulating projects and ensuring that they are integrated with the work of other public and private bodies.

55. Significant examples of projects in which training and evaluation were effectively dealt with include a mining project in India, which was noteworthy for the contribution it made to the extension of laboratory facilities and training and also for the quality of its evaluation report. The fact that the consultant was already familiar with local conditions, his technical knowledge and the time spent on the evaluation resulted in a report which contained very useful recommendations for follow-up action and some concrete proposals for improving the procedures for procuring equipment. In Nigeria, a project aimed

at providing short-term training in development economics and management was designed with the cooperation of leading universities overseas and tailor-made to meet local needs. A large audience was reached through the courses offered, which were highly rated by the participants. In Pakistan, a project provided for the establishment of a world-class materials-testing laboratory, which was essential for the implementation of major civil-engineering and construction works. This laboratory can also serve as a centre for technology transfer and training for other countries in Asia and the Pacific.

V. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

56. In matters relating to Women in Development, the Department operates within the basic framework provided by the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the requests submitted by developing countries. The task force established within the Department in this field of action continued to operate in 1992 with increased substantive expertise at its disposal. It is markedly oriented towards activities in support of technical cooperation programmes with a grassroots base, which are a major means of achieving progress on behalf of women in developing countries.

57. The Department cooperated with INSTRAW in organizing an interregional workshop on women's role in environment and sustainable development, held in Beijing in September 1992. Twelve United Nations agencies, organizations and other bodies, including the United Nations Office in Vienna, participated. Over 80 prototype, replicable project proposals, addressing some of the major issues raised in Agenda 21, were developed. The workshop, which was attended by 120 participants, was perceived not only as an operationally oriented activity but also as a main link between UNCED and the fourth World Conference on Women planned for 1995.

58. The Department also cooperated with INSTRAW and ESCAP in organizing a regional workshop on training modules on women, water supply and sanitation - a package aimed at senior government officials, development planners and provincial authorities in charge of water supply and sanitation projects, engineers in charge of designing and implementing projects and trainers and managers of national training institutes. This workshop, which followed a similar one held in the Gambia in 1991, took place in Thailand in September 1992.

59. Innovative work was performed in connection with the enhancement of the role of women in small-scale and artisanal mining. Workers in this informal sector are in a marginal and vulnerable position in that they must rely on a seasonal source of income. The Department seeks to assist women through training, transfer of technology, and development of entrepreneurship. Four prototype projects relating to women in mining were occasionally introduced for donor financing in 1992. The Department has been cooperating with UNIFEM and INSTRAW in this regard and will help to organize an interregional seminar to be held in 1993 on guidelines for the development of small and medium-scale mining, at which issues relating to women will be addressed at length.

60. In the field of statistics, priority concerns were the improvement of data on the participation of women in the informal sector and the provision of

assistance in developing national databases on women, population and development through a technical adviser financed by Norway. With regard to the informal sector, a project executed in cooperation with INSTRAW, UNDP and ECA was successfully completed. Following the development and promotion of the United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT) and the publication of World's Women, 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, the Department, in cooperation with the Women-in-Development Subgroup of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and several bilateral agencies, is responding to requests concerning the development of national databases and reports for submission to the conference on women to be held in 1995.

61. In the field of population, a new microcomputer-based model for women in urban formal and informal sectors demonstrates the potential impact of policies which Governments could adopt with a view to establishing a more equitable partnership with women on issues relating to development. A paper on strategies to raise awareness among policy-makers, which had proved to be of use in technical cooperation activities, was presented at an expert group meeting on population and women held preparatory to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994.

62. As regards the role of women in government and decision-making, the Department distributed the results of research and workshops on the development of policy for increasing the participation of women in public management. This information was provided to civil-service commissions, public-administration-and-management institutes and public enterprises. The Department also helped Governments to design and implement programmes in this field of activity.

VI. TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

63. Support by the Department for TCDC activities involves: stimulating institutional networking arrangements; disseminating information on available capabilities; and calling on developing countries to provide project components.

64. The promotion of TCDC is a priority for the Department. Workshops, seminars and training programmes financed out of the regular-programme budget or from other sources facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise among developing countries.

65. As for the effort to promote reliance on developing countries' capacities, 1992 saw a steady increase in the use of experts and consultants from such countries and of their institutions for purposes of training arrangements, subcontracts and equipments. Further details in this regard may be found in annex II to this report.

66. In 1992 the Department worked with the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in providing support from the regular programme to the Government of Ecuador and 21 other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa for the purpose of holding a UNDP intercountry exercise to identify possible TCDC arrangements in connection with mining and its environmental impact. In preparation for this exercise, which was held at Quito, the Department provided staff resources, requested project staff in the participating countries to assist in matching the capacities and

needs of the countries to which they were assigned with those of Ecuador and helped to formulate project requests for negotiation. Missions were conducted to several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia. During the programming exercise itself, the Department and the UNDP Special Unit worked with the host Government and assisted participants during the negotiations. The exercise resulted in 177 project agreements. The Department will cover some of the costs incurred during the implementation of several of the projects agreed upon and will also provide technical advice to participating countries at their request.

67. During the year, the Department participated in a number of meetings relating to TCDC, including a meeting held in Chitose City, Japan, in May, which had among its main items South-South cooperation in the Asia and Pacific region. That meeting was organized by UNCTAD, UNU, Hokkaido Prefecture and Chitose City. In July it made a statement in the Economic and Social Council describing its TCDC activities. It also participated in the meeting of TCDC focal points for UNDP held in New York, which focused on proposed guidelines for TCDC and on a draft questionnaire on relevant activities, and in the meetings of focal points of the Arab States (Damascus, Syria); and the Latin America and Caribbean region (Caracas, Venezuela), the UNDP Workshop on Foreign Aid Coordination and the TCDC consultations for Africa. Funds were also made available for follow-up training activities.

68. A notable endeavour was the convening, jointly with the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC, of two interregional meetings on guidelines for integrated macroeconomic planning and management for sustainable development in island developing countries. A preparatory session was held in April in Jamaica, and a workshop in June in Fiji, leading to the publication of a handbook for decision-makers and planning staff. Additional conference and training follow-up is planned.

VII. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

69. The regular programme responds to priority development needs through catalytic activities. Guided on priorities by the Governing Council, the regular programme finances short-term advisory services, training and innovative field projects to meet special needs and attract additional support.

70. Human resources development and institution-building were at the core of the activities carried out in 1992. Complementarity with other development activities was stressed as was assistance in connection with multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to development. Flexibility and rapidity in responding to requests characterized the way in which the programme was managed.

71. The provision of advisory services to a wide range of countries in all areas of work in which the Department specializes remained a salient feature of the programme. In addition, 22 interregional seminars and workshops, with inputs from about as many host countries, provided some 390 participants from developing countries with training and an opportunity for professional interaction. Least-developed countries were given priority in respect of the provision of advisory services and seminars.

72. At the request of the new Department of Humanitarian Affairs, DESD also participated in an interagency mission to Somalia to help to lay the foundation for the eventual rehabilitation of that country's human-resource and management capacity.

73. The special needs of Africa were explored in an interregional symposium, in which problems were viewed in the light of the Asian experience on development policy and ways to draw lessons from that experience were examined. The symposium, which was co-funded by the African Development Bank and Japan, will be followed in 1993 by a workshop on long-term perspective planning in Africa.

74. Environment-related activities included workshops on issues relating to water and environment; mining and environment; remote sensing and environment and the role of women in environmentally sound, sustainable development. Environmental considerations were incorporated in other workshops when appropriate. These training activities were supplemented by advisory missions.

75. In addition to the interregional workshop mentioned above, a workshop was organized in Thailand, following upon one held in the Gambia in 1991, to test training modules on women, water supply and sanitation. Regarding women and small and medium-scale mining, the Department has been cooperating with UNIFEM and INSTRAW and will help organize a seminar on the subject in 1993.

76. The regular programme also supported a seminar in the Seychelles on the special economic planning and management needs of island developing countries.

77. Privatization and related needs were addressed through various activities, including a mission to Albania to advise on the economic and social changes needed to shift to a market economy. In a project on the methods and practices employed in the privatization of State-owned enterprises in Bangladesh and Kenya, diagnostic surveys were carried out and national workshops organized on the financing of privatization and on post-privatization regulations. An interregional seminar in China dealt with the linkages of micro-economic reforms and macroeconomic adjustment in transitional centrally planned economies.

78. Other missions, based on cross-sectoral-needs assessments, identified programme components and complemented services financed by UNDP under TSS-1. A multisectoral-needs-assessment mission to Nigeria, in relation to the fifth UNDP country programme, identified and ranked problems in all the geographical areas of the country and suggested programmes for dealing with them.

79. Significantly, the regular programme was used to enhance the capacity for national execution and to help with the introduction of the programme approach called for in General Assembly resolution 44/211 and in various decisions of the UNDP Governing Council. A mission to Malawi helped to develop a practical application of the programme approach and to prepare a report on the country programme formulation process. The Department also organized another training workshop in its series on aspects of implementing technical cooperation projects.